



Port Community Information Bulletin # 07-02
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: February 6, 2002
Expiration Date: TBD

MERCHANT MARINER LICENSING EXAMINATION QUESTION COMMENT AND PROTEST

The U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center has published NMC Policy Letter 16-01 dated December 7, 2001. This policy letter provides clarification and guidance to the Regional Examination Centers (RECs) about the acceptance of merchant mariner examination question comments and protests. The actual contents of this letter with the attached Comment-Protest Sheet are accessible on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-policy.htm>. A synopsis of the letter's contents is as follows:

The Coast Guard permits candidates while completing their merchant mariner licensing and documentation examinations to comment upon and protest specific questions used on the examination. When a candidate believes that there is something wrong with a question that prevents it from being answered correctly, he or she is provided the opportunity during the examination to write a comment for any question. When a candidate fails the exam, each comment submitted for an incorrectly answered question becomes a protest and is reviewed to determine if the candidate has provided sufficient information to receive credit for that question.

When a candidate has been informed of a failing grade and has failed the examination module by no more than one question, he or she will be given the opportunity to review each question for which he or she was not given credit. Immediately after their review and prior to departing the examination room following the review, he or she is to be given the opportunity to submit a protest on no more than two missed questions. The completed protest form(s), candidate answer sheet, and pertinent calculations are to be forwarded to the National Maritime Center for review. Following review of the protest, the REC will be informed as to the result of the candidate's protest and if necessary the final grade will be adjusted accordingly.

J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port